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State of Louisiana
Division of Administration
Office of Community Development
Disaster Recovery Unit

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State seeks comments on Phase II application for National Disaster Resilience Competition

BATON ROUGE - Beginning today, the Louisiana Office of Community Development - Disaster Recovery Unit is accepting public comments on its Phase II Application for the National Disaster Resilience Competition. Louisiana is one of 40 entities eligible to compete in the second phase of the \$1 billion competition launched in September 2014 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The funds are for cities, counties and states that had disasters in 2011, 2012 and 2013 and are intended to help communities improve their resilience to future shocks. The state's application focuses on areas declared to be most distressed and impacted by Hurricane Isaac in Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. John the Baptist and Terrebonne parishes. Jefferson, Orleans and St. Tammany parishes are each eligible to apply for the funds independently.

"We have engaged other state agencies, residents and local governments in the four areas we're targeting and other private for-profit and nonprofit organizations to give Louisiana the best chance of success for this application," said Pat Forbes, executive director of the Office of Community Development. "We have also worked closely with our partners on proactive and comprehensive approaches to resilience. Whether or not HUD awards funds to Louisiana from this competition, the result of this process should still be a more resilient future in these vulnerable areas."

Phase I of the competition focused on framing recovery needs, and identifying risks and community development opportunities in the target geographic areas. Phase II is focused on developing strategies for projects and programs that address the risks, vulnerabilities and community development opportunities identified in Phase I.

HUD invited Louisiana, along with 39 other Phase I applicants, to advance to Phase II of the competition.

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NDRC Phase II

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The Phase II application deadline is Oct. 27. HUD will review the applications through the end of the year and announce the successful proposals and awards in early 2016. Should Louisiana be successful, project implementation will follow shortly thereafter.

The application can be viewed online at http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/oed-dru/Action_Plans.aspx.

The formal public comment period for the plans begins today, Oct. 9, 2015 and runs until 5 p.m. Oct. 23, 2015. Citizens, community leaders and elected officials can submit comments on the application by:

- Emailing them to oed@la.gov;
- Mailing them to Disaster Recovery Unit, P.O. Box 94095, 70804-9095, Attn: Janice Lovett; or
- Faxing them to the attention of Janice Lovett at (225) 219-9605.

The Disaster Recovery Unit within the Office of Community Development is dedicated to helping Louisiana's citizens recover from hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike and Isaac. As the state's central point for hurricane recovery, the OCD-DRU manages the most extensive rebuilding effort in American history, working closely with local, state and federal partners to ensure that Louisiana recovers safer, stronger and smarter than before.

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